

Please amend the claims as follows:

*Please amend claims 54, 59, 68-71, 73-77, 79-84, 86, and 87.*

*Please cancel claims 55, 62, 63, 78 and 85*

*Please add new claims 88-90.*

54. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin- $\beta$ -receptor (LT- $\beta$ -R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disease comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT- $\beta$ -R or an antibody directed against LT- $\beta$ -R.

55. **(Canceled)**

56. **(Canceled)**

57. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54 , wherein the subject is a human.

58. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT- $\beta$ -R having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

59. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT- $\beta$ -R fused to one or more heterologous protein domains. ~~further comprising a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.~~

60. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT- $\beta$ -R.

61-65. **(Canceled)**

66. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the soluble LT- $\beta$ -R is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT- $\beta$  receptor-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

67. **(Canceled)**

68. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.

69. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.

70. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.

71. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor (LT- $\beta$ -R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disorder comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises ~~comprising~~ a soluble LT- $\beta$ -R fused to one or more heterologous protein domains.

72. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 71, wherein the heterologous protein domain comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

73. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble LT- $\beta$ -R comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the functional sequence comprises the LT- $\beta$ -R ligand binding domain.
74. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the heterologous domain ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
75. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.
76. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.
77. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.
78. **(Canceled)**
79. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71 ~~78~~, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.
80. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71 ~~78~~, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.
81. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor (LT- $\beta$ -R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disorder comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an

effective amount of an LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprising a soluble LT- $\beta$ -R fused to a heterologous domain comprising a human immunoglobulin Fc domain, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the soluble LT- $\beta$ -R consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

82.     **(Currently amended)**                     The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.

83.     **(Currently amended)**                     The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.

84.     **(Currently amended)**                     The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT- $\beta$ -R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.

85.     **(Canceled)**

86.     **(Currently amended)**                     The method according to claim 81 ~~85~~, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.

87.     **(Currently amended)**                     The method according to claim 81 ~~85~~, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

88.     **(New)**                     The method according to claim 59, wherein the heterologous protein domain further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

89. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.

90. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.